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ABSTRACT

The 1970 United States census counted a female population of 104,299,734. Of all the nations in the world, only three have larger female populations: China, India, and the Soviet Union. Females made up 51.3 percent of the United States population. Over 70 million American women are of voting age--that's nearly seven million more than the number of men of voting age in the United States. In 1950, only seven percent of women 18 to 24 were in college. By 1970, 20 percent of women in this age group were enrolled in college. In 1970 women made up 40 percent of the work force. The twentieth century emergence of the American woman from the status she historically held is a phenomenon dramatically illustrated in Census Bureau data. She is becoming better educated, enabling her to move up the job ladder and increase her earning power. With her new independence, she lives alone in her own household if she chooses. The married woman is having fewer children, and the divorcee is remarrying sooner. And she is living longer to enjoy her new opportunities and freedoms. Clearly, the American woman will exert an ever more powerful influence on the destiny of the U.S. as a result of: her increasing participation in the labor force, her growing educational background, her majority in the electorate, and her wishes as to family size, which will determine the nation's future population growth. (Author/JM)

WE the american women

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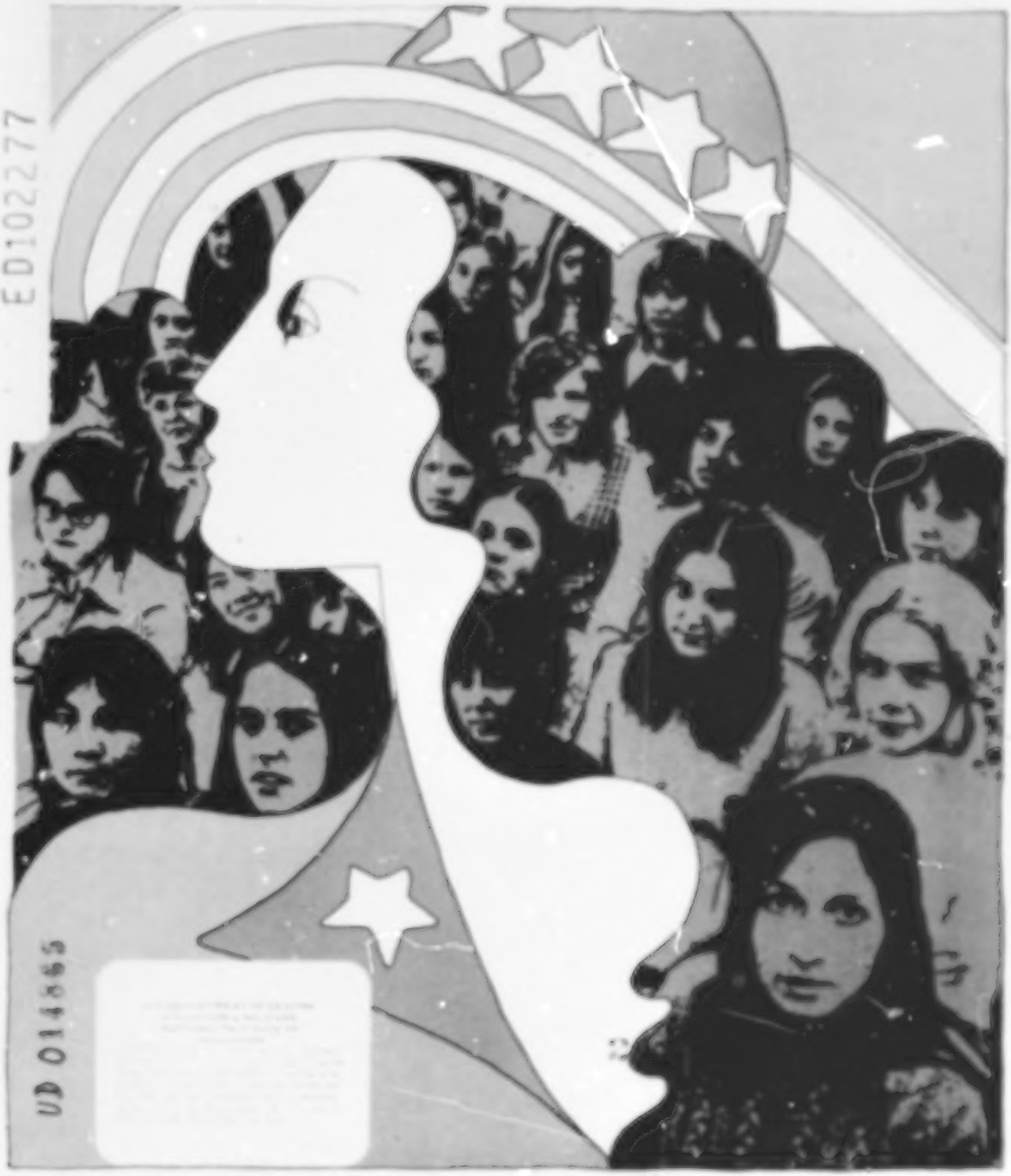

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WE the american women

The 1970 United States census counted a female population of 104,299,134. This is about equal to the total population of Japan. Of all the nations in the world, only three others have larger female populations: China, India, and the Soviet Union.

No. 4 in a series of reports from the 1970 Census.

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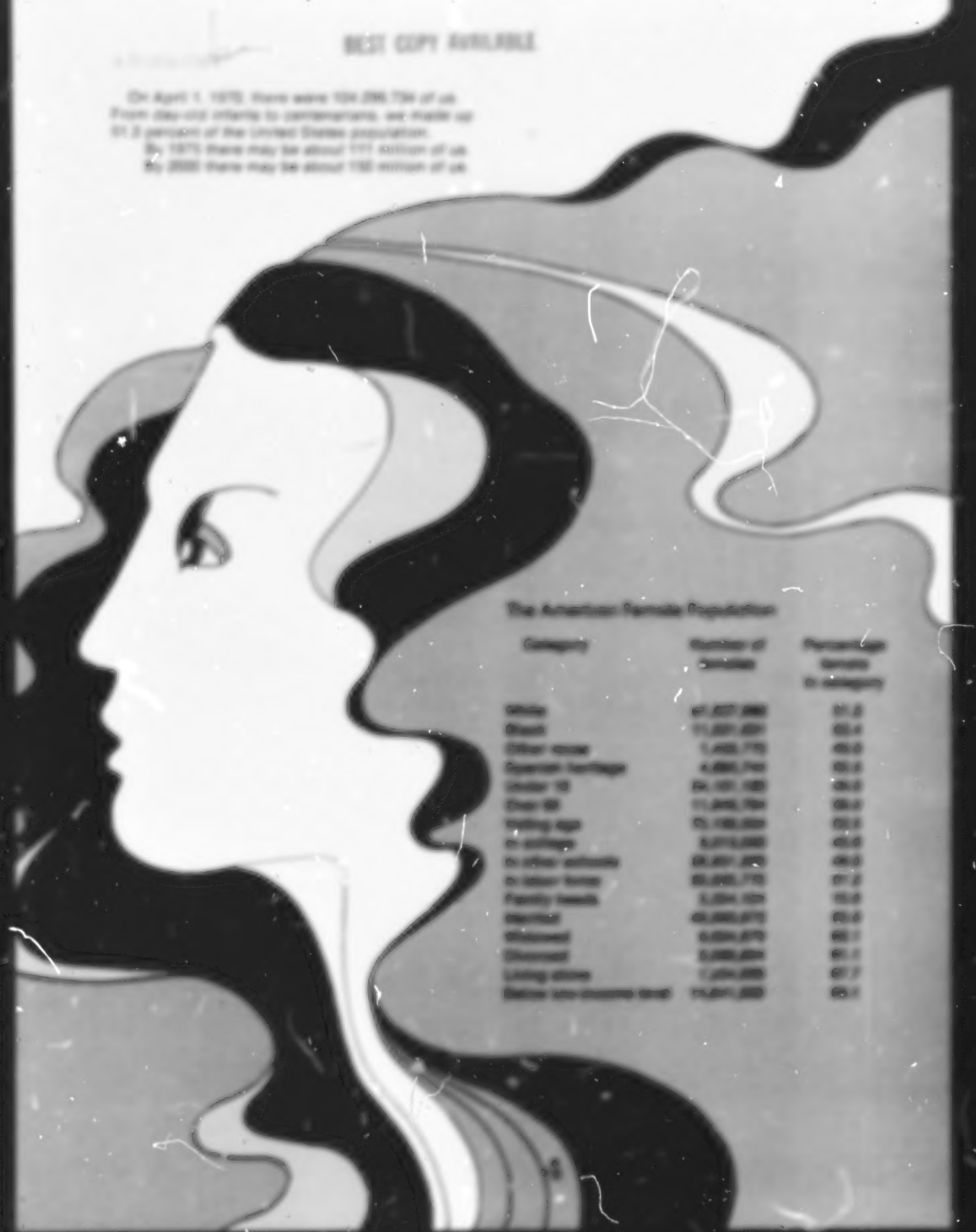
On April 1, 1970, there were 104,299,734 of us.
From day-old infants to centenarians, we made up
51.3 percent of the United States population.
By 1975 there may be about 111 million of us.
By 2000 there may be about 150 million of us.



The American Female Population

Category	Number of Females	Percentage female in category
White	[illegible]	[illegible]
Black	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other races	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish heritage	[illegible]	[illegible]
Under 5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Over 65	[illegible]	[illegible]
Voting age	[illegible]	[illegible]
In college	[illegible]	[illegible]
In other schools	[illegible]	[illegible]
In labor force	[illegible]	[illegible]
Family heads	[illegible]	[illegible]
Married	[illegible]	[illegible]
Widowed	[illegible]	[illegible]
Divorced	[illegible]	[illegible]
Living alone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Below low-income level	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

In America, from earliest times until the mid-20th century, we females were outnumbered by males. The shift in the ratio of the sexes occurred during the 1960's. The 1960 census was the first to show more females than males, about one and a half million, or about 98 males per 100 females. By 1970, the difference was about 3.5 million, or about 94 males per 100 females.

More boys than girls are born every year, currently about 105 boys per 100 girls, and boys continue to outnumber girls through childhood and adolescence, according to census data. In the late teens the ratio is reversed, and among 70-year-olds there are 86 men per 100 women. As people grow older, the increase in the number of women over men accelerates so that among people 85 and older the ratio is 72 men per 100 women.

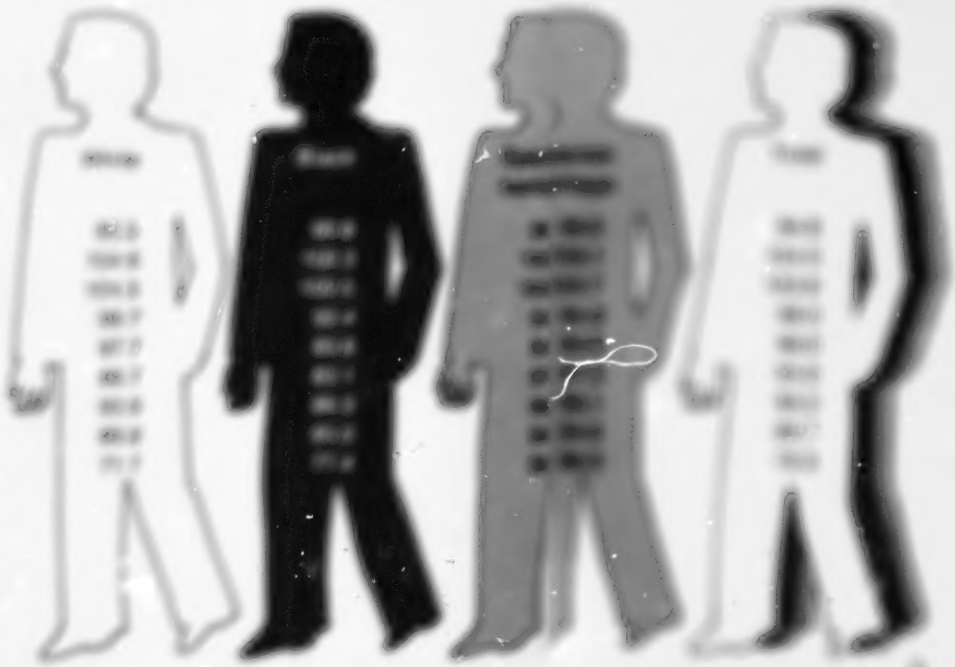
[illegible]

[illegible] women outnumber men across literally every [illegible] country in the world. Worldwide there is [illegible] excess mortality of [illegible].

Although the [illegible] has been increasing for [illegible], the gap in [illegible] has widened considerably. In [illegible] females had a [illegible] advantage of [illegible] years. This has resulted from a [illegible] longevity of males and females. [illegible] the average life expectancy for boys born in [illegible] was about 48 years; for girls born that year, about 49 years. In contrast, the expectancy for boys born today is [illegible] years, for girls, about 78 years—the gap now in longevity having increased from 2 to 7 years.[illegible]

[illegible] quite important and positive. Living longer [illegible] are increasingly able [illegible] people. In [illegible] 21. The [illegible] age was about 17 years for [illegible] males and females. [illegible] half the people [illegible] were younger and half older than that age. At the end of the 19th century, the median age had [illegible] to 22.1 years for females and 20.8 [illegible] for males. Today, [illegible] there are more [illegible] than [illegible]. The median age for females is [illegible] and for males, 28.8 years.[illegible]

[illegible]



Age	White	Black	Spanish heritage	Total
All ages	82.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Under 5 years	104.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5 to 14 years	104.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
15 to 24 years	96.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
25 to 34 years	97.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35 to 44 years	96.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45 to 54 years	93.6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
55 to 64 years	89.8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
65 years and over	71.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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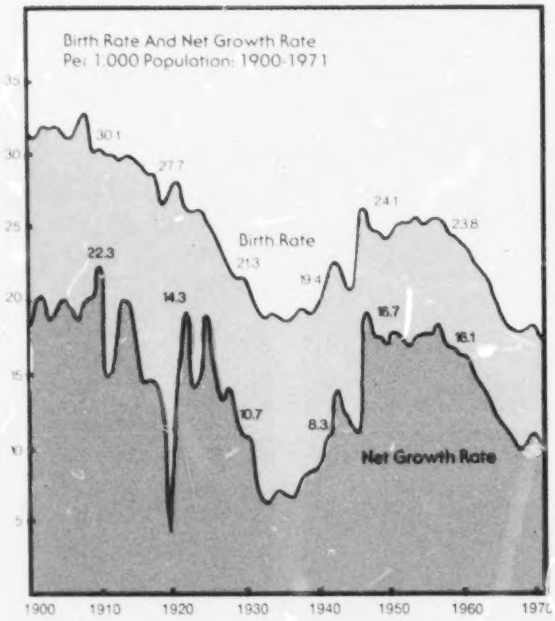
Our Growth Rate Follows Our Birth Rate



The U.S. birth rate, which rose during the period between the late 1930's and late 1950's, has since then reverted to its historical downward trend. If young wives expect to have fewer children, as they have recently indicated, it follows that the birth rate will continue to decline, resulting in a diminishing population growth and possibly a cessation of growth. However, if families in the future choose to have more children, the rising birth rate would bring a rising growth rate.

Summing Up

The 20th century emergence of the American woman from the status she historically held is a phenomenon dramatically illustrated in Census Bureau data.

She is becoming better educated, enabling her to move up the job ladder and increase her earning power. With her new independence, she lives alone in her own household if she chooses. The married woman is having fewer children, and the divorcee is remarrying sooner.

And she is living longer to enjoy her new opportunities and freedoms.

Clearly, the American woman will exert an ever more powerful influence on the destiny of the United States as a result of:

- Her increasing participation in the labor force,
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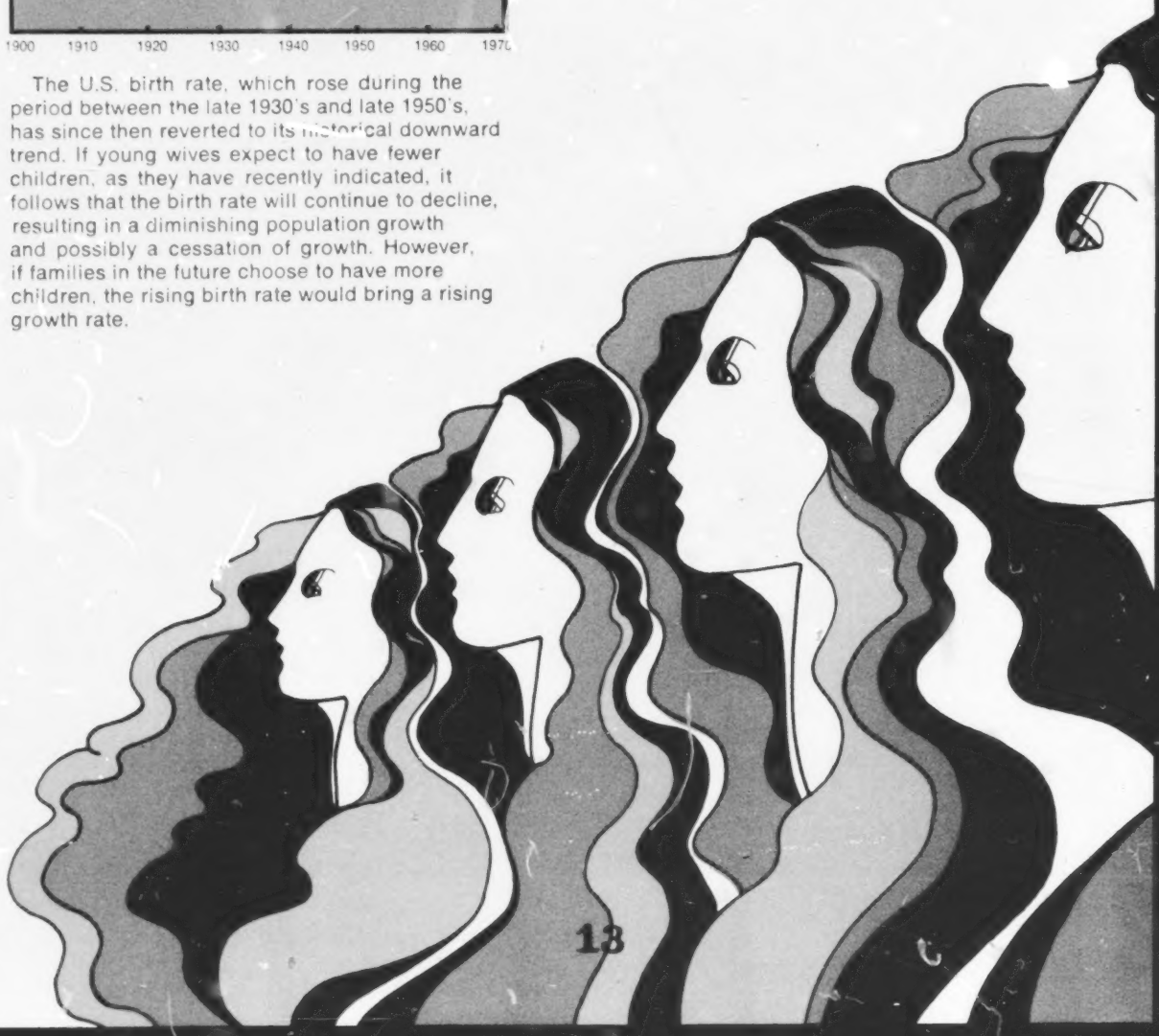

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